

18. 10. 2004

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

(96)

1. A floor console for use in a vehicle, the floor console comprising:  
a base coupled to the vehicle between a first seat and a second seat located in a row of seats in the vehicle;  
a first panel and a second panel rotatably coupled to the base and rotatable between a lowered position and a raised position to provide additional storage capabilities;  
a first flexible member and a second flexible member coupled to the first panel and to the second panel, wherein a storage area is defined by the first panel, the second panel, the first flexible member, the second flexible member, and the base when the first panel and the second panel are rotated to the raised position;  
a module configured to be removably retained when being at least partially disposed in the storage area;  
wherein the floor console provides a low profile condition when the first panel and the second panel are in the lowered position and provides an additional storage area condition when the first panel and the second panel are rotated to the upright position.
2. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the first and second panels are spring biased to the raised position or the lowered position.
3. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the base is located between a pair of spaced apart seats or in a cargo area of the vehicle.
4. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the base comprises at least one of a tray, a removable tray, one or more cup holders, a power port, a parking brake, or combinations thereof.
5. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the module comprises at least one of a tray, a removable tray, one or more cup holders, or combinations thereof.
6. The floor console of claim 1 wherein a textures surface is provided on the cup holder, parking brake, first and second panels, or combinations thereof.
7. The floor console of claim 1 wherein surfaces on the first and second panels provide a tray when in the lowered position.
8. The floor console of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second flexible members comprise netting.
9. The floor console of claim 8 wherein the netting is coupled to a rigid frame.

Atty. Dkt. No. 027830-3929

10. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the first and second panels are configured for pivotal movement and provide side walls when in the upright position.

11. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the module is configured to be supported by the first and second panels.

12. The floor console of claim 1 wherein a secondary storage space is provided between walls of the module and the flexible or the flexible member.

13. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the module comprises a sliding top portion movable to expose an internal storage space of the module.

14. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the module provides functionality selected from the group comprising a cooler, a children's module, a baby's module, an infotainment module, a work module, or combinations thereof.

15. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the first panel is disposed towards the front of the vehicle, the second panel is disposed towards the rear of the vehicle.

16. The floor console of claim 1 further comprising a second module interchangeable with the first module to be configured to be removably retained by being at least partially disposed in the storage area.

17. The floor console of claim 1 wherein the base is mounted between a pair of spaced apart seats in the vehicle, and further comprising:

a second base coupled to the vehicle;

a third panel and a fourth panel coupled to the second base and movable between a lowered position and a raised position to provide additional storage capabilities;

a third flexible member and a fourth flexible coupled to the third panel and the fourth panel, wherein a second storage area is provided by the third and fourth panels, the third and fourth flexible members, and the second base when the third and fourth panels are in the raised position;

a second module configured to be removably retained by being at least partially disposed in the second storage area;

wherein the third and fourth panels provide a low profile condition when in the lowered position and the third and fourth panels provide an additional storage area condition when in the upright position;

wherein the first and second modules are interchangeable.

18. The floor console of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of storage components adaptable for reconfigurable use with the base or the module.
19. A vehicle interior system for use in a vehicle, the floor console comprising:  
a first seat and a second seat in a row of seats in the vehicle;  
a floor console including:  
a base coupled to the vehicle between the first seat and the second seat;  
a first panel pivotally coupled to the base and a second panel pivotally coupled to the base, the first panel and the second panel pivotable between a lowered position and a raised position;  
wherein a storage area is defined by the first panel, the second panel, and the base when the first panel and the second panel are in the raised position  
wherein the floor console provides a low profile condition when the first panel and the second panel are in the lowered position and provides the storage area when the first panel and the second panel are in the upright position.
20. The vehicle interior system of claim 19 further comprising a first flexible member coupled to the first panel and to the second panel, and a second flexible member coupled to the first panel and to the second panel, wherein the storage area is defined by the first panel, the second panel, the first flexible member, the second flexible member, and the base when the first and second panels are in the raised position.
21. The vehicle interior system of claim 20 further comprising a module configured to be removably retained when being at least partially disposed in the storage area.
22. The vehicle interior system of claim 19 wherein the row of seats in the vehicle is a front row of seats.